



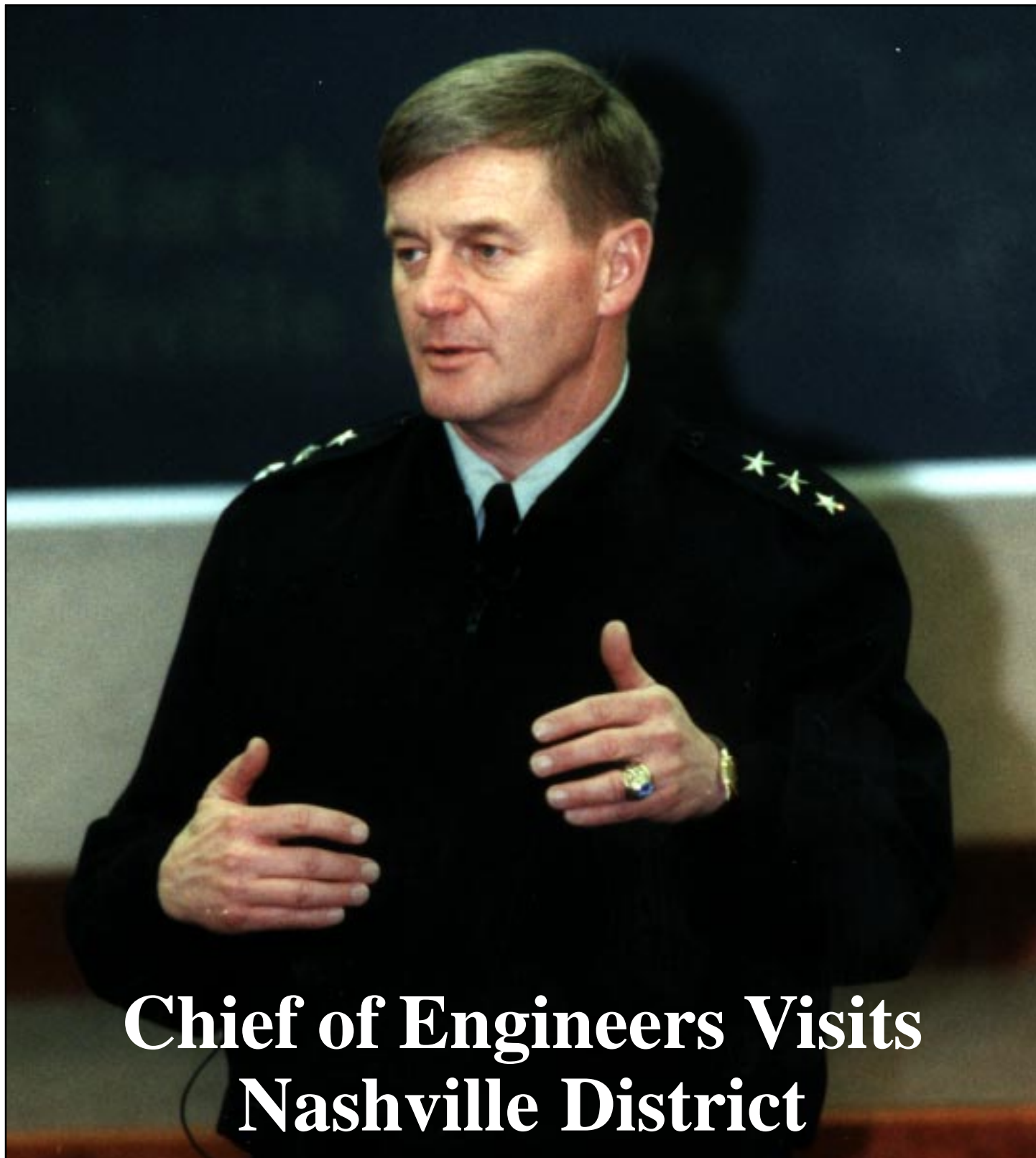
US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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April 2001



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Correction: On the cover photo from the March 2001 *District Digest*, Jeannie Hargrove was misidentified as Annette Robinson. The *Digest* staff regrets this error.

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On the Cover

Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, visited the Nashville District on March 23. As part of his visit he toured the District office and held a Town Hall Meeting at the BellSouth Building. In this photo, Flowers makes a point during the Town Hall Meeting.

DistrictDigest

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Lieutenant Colonel Pete Taylor

Thoughts From The Trail...



Hello Nashville. The past six weeks have been action-packed for the District and there are lots of good news stories to relate.

One of the highlights for the District in March was the visit by our 50th Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers. For those who weren't able to participate, we hosted the Chief for the better part of day during which he toured the District headquarters and conducted a town hall meeting. The town hall meeting was a big success — the Chief clearly connected with our workforce as he described the Corps' refreshed vision; his expectations for each employee (know your job, be situationally aware, treat others with dignity and respect, and be healthy); how he's placing renewed emphasis on recruitment, training, and development; and how he's working hard to tell the Corps' story in Washington and throughout the country. And I know that the Chief was impressed by what he heard and saw here in Nashville. Specifically, he commented about our strong execution and our diverse program, how our leadership development programs are among the best in the Corps, and on the superb job done by our OPS team despite tight O&M funding. My thanks to all of those involved in supporting the Chief's visit — Carol Warren, Dave Treadway, Maj. Rich Shelton, Janis Clark, Patrice Bertrand, Tommy Mason, Scott Fanning, Lynn Bowden, Bonnie Rawle, Mike Swing, Ken Laster, and Christy Vatovec. I would also like to point out those employees who the Chief recognized by presenting coins for their outstanding efforts throughout the year — Freddie Bell, Janie Billingsley, Stephanie Coleman, Barney Davis, Doug DeLong, Don Getty, Carol Haynes, Ray Hedrick, Gary House, Daphne Jackson, Sandy Jorah, Nancy Manahan, Curtis Malone, Jay Neely, Andreas Patterson, Julie Reeves, James Sowell, Tom Swor, and Yvette Walker.

In early April, Dave Day and I conducted our annual trip to Washington D.C. where we visited with our key congressional delegations. The meetings were

positive and productive — our delegations genuinely appreciate the work that we do and are supportive of our programs. I was particularly proud when, like last year, congressional staffers mentioned resource or project managers by name and cited the work done by that individual. A few of the folks who were recognized included Wayne Huddleston, Ronnie Smith, Tom Cayce, Linda Adcock, Doug Radley, Vechere' Lampley, and Peggy Harker.

One topic I would like to discuss is our FY02 program. Now that the President's budget has been released, you've probably heard that FY02 will be a lean year for the Corps. A cursory review of the Corps' numbers in the budget would seem to support this sentiment — the Corps' civil works budget dropped by 14 percent from FY01 to FY02, from \$4.5B to \$3.9B. You must remember, however, that FY01 was an exceptional year from an appropriations standpoint. For the Corps as a whole, the civil works program increased by 10% in FY01, from \$4.2B to \$4.5B, with some attributing the growth to the budget surplus and FY01 being an election year. For Nashville District, the senior leaders and I are still optimistic about FY02. We expect our total program to be approximately \$140M, a modest increase over this year. We expect some of the increase to be dedicated to our Kentucky Lock and Continuing Authorities Program projects (Metro Center Levee, Bristol Flood Control, Blennerhasset, Emily and Timothy, Drakes Creek, and many others). The one budget area that does concern us is our O&M appropriation, which is currently projected to be \$59.7M, a \$3.6M decrease from this FY. We'll continue to work with LRD and HQUSACE to explain the impacts of this funding level. The bottom line concerning our program for next year is that we expect adequate funding support for our various projects and programs.

In mid-April, I attended the International Water Safety Congress' Annual meeting at Opryland. This was a major event attended by more than 600 water safety professionals and the Corps' Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen.



Milt Hunter. The District was the de facto host for the event and, as always, our team rose to the occasion. Tony Rushing, our Laurel Lake Resource Manager, served as conference chair and planned the entire session. Her superb efforts received notice as she received the Presidents Award from the National Water Safety Council for her "outstanding contribution and service to the National Water Safety Congress." Several other District employees were also recognized for their contributions to water safety. Steve Foshee received two awards for his role in our water safety poster campaign that featured the head football coaches from UT, Alabama, and Kentucky. Carolyn Bauer was recognized for her efforts in putting together water safety demonstrations that involved canoeing, kayaking, individual rescue equipment, fatal vision goggles, nautical knots, remote control boat maneuvering, and vessel safety checks. Finally, our former safety officer, Emmett Forte, was praised for his public relations contributions to the conference.

With summer soon approaching, it's time again to dedicate ourselves to safety. The warm weather and long days that we all look forward to signifies the period when we conduct most of our construction activities, our intensive dewatering and maintenance activities, and the recreation season when we have hundreds of thousands of visitors to our projects. As I write this, several thoughts come to mind. First, everyone is a safety officer. This means all of us have the responsibility and authority to take action if we see unsafe or questionable acts. In the past year, I know of three instances when we temporarily suspended diving, construction, and dewatering operations because of safety

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Two Military Medals Presented at Boating, Water Safety Summit

By Ed Evans

The 5th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit climaxed at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn., April 11, with an awards banquet where the U.S. Coast Guard presented two unexpected military medals to a pair of civilian carbon monoxide researchers.

Dr. Robert Baron, MD, U.S. National Park Service, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Phoenix, Ariz., and Jane McCammon, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Denver Field Office, detailed 111 fatal and non-fatal houseboat generator-related carbon monoxide poisonings at Lake Powell, Ariz., in addition to similar poisonings throughout the U.S. Their work had also qualified them for a National Water Safety Congress Region 8 award.

In presenting the medals, following presentation of the Region 8 award, U.S. Coast Guard Captain Ronald R. Weston, Chief, Office of Boating Safety, Washington, D.C., said that after Coast Guard officials looked at the important work performed by Baron and McCammon, they agreed someone should give them a medal.



Photo by Ed Evans

Brenda Warren, Region Three Vice-President, awards Steven Foshee, Public Affairs Specialist, with a Region Three Award for his initiative to develop and implement a safety billboard campaign throughout a three state area and his use of public services announcements to reinforce the safety message.



Photo by Bill Peoples

Major General Milton Hunter, assistant chief of Engineers and Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, Nashville District engineer, aboard the General Jackson during the 50th Anniversary of the National Water Safety Congress.

"So that's what we're going to do," said Weston, as he presented Meritorious Public Service Award Medals to the two researchers.

The fifth annual Summit was termed a success by Summit chairperson Toni Rushing, the Laurel Lake resource manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Just over 600 boating and water safety experts from all over the world gathered at the Opryland Hotel April 8-11 to present their programs, exchange information and set the agenda for the 2002 boating and water safety campaign.

On the first day of the Summit, conferees were welcomed by boating and water safety officials in addition to Tennessee's U.S. Rep. Bob Clement, 5th District; Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, Nashville District commander; Gary Myers, executive director, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and Rear Admiral Thad Allen, commander, 7th Coast Guard District and commander, Maritime Defense Command Seven.

Promoting the Summit motto, "We are saving one life at a time!", the outdoors and water safety experts, lawyers and

researchers hosted discussion forums, made presentations, and taught classes on such subjects as getting children involved, aquatic investigations, and educating boaters.

People

"If we can save one life," said Ed Carter, TWRA water safety expert, "we've made a difference."

Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, came in for its share of praise by Steve Fairbanks, president, National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) and Bill Selden, chair, National Safety Boating Council (NSBC), for the District's support of water safety efforts over the years, and its support of this year's Summit. One singled out was Carolyn Bauer, Operations Division, who along with Betsy Wood, TWRA, arranged for a barbecue lunch and an afternoon of demonstrations at Nashville Shores on J. Percy Priest Lake involving canoeing, kayaking, individual rescue equipment, fatal vision goggles,

**Continued on Page 12
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Kentucky Lock Addition Continues Meeting Milestones

by Bill Peoples

The Kentucky Lock Addition, the Nashville District's largest current project, continues to meet milestones since its ground breaking in November 1999. Several significant activities have occurred recently and in the last year including the publishing of the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

"Back in 1992 when we did the original Environmental Impact Statement, we knew there were areas which we were going to have to supplement," said Don Getty, project manager, Kentucky Lock Addition. "We put in models of the new lock at the Waterways and Experiment Station, which we did not have at the time of the original EIS, a lock model and a navigation general model. The navigation model has determined the configuration of a training dike and we had to assess the environmental impacts of that training dike in the supplemental EIS. In addition to that there has been a tremendous amount of changes to the project since 1992 and we are trying to document and assess those in this supplemental EIS."

Because of the changes the project, the supplemental EIS has now been drafted and the public comment period is complete. The findings of the supplemental EIS are very positive, according to Getty. The addition of features such as changing the approach walls; changing the configuration of the downstream cofferdam; impacts to downstream mussel beds; and additional recreational features including tail water fishing enhancements, a visitors center, and a bike and pedestrian bridge have benefited the environment.

"There weren't any surprises in the supplemental EIS other than the large amount of changes that we had envisioned," said Getty. "It turns out that the environmental impacts of the project are probably less than we envisioned in 1992, because the changes we've made as a whole have resulted in less impact. For example, using the navigation model, we determined that the new downstream

velocities will not have a significant impact on the mussel beds, which is one of our most significant and consistent environmental issues."

Presently, there is a core group of about twenty people in the District who are working on Kentucky Lock almost full-time, according to Getty. Most of them have been working one project for some time. The newest additions to the project are from the new resident office.

Process

"A recent development is we now have a resident office at Kentucky Lock," said Getty. "It was established in January. The physical building was brought in from Harlan. We also have a fulltime construction engineer, Tony Ellis, who has been a tremendous boon to the project. He is helping us out a great deal. J.C. McDaniels has been the resident engineer since last summer and is active in the project as well."

A couple of recent developments on the project include a gift and wetlands. The project recently received a gift, about \$3 million dollars in sheet pile from the Olmsted Lock project on the Ohio River that will be used to construct both the upstream and downstream coffer dams, according to Getty.

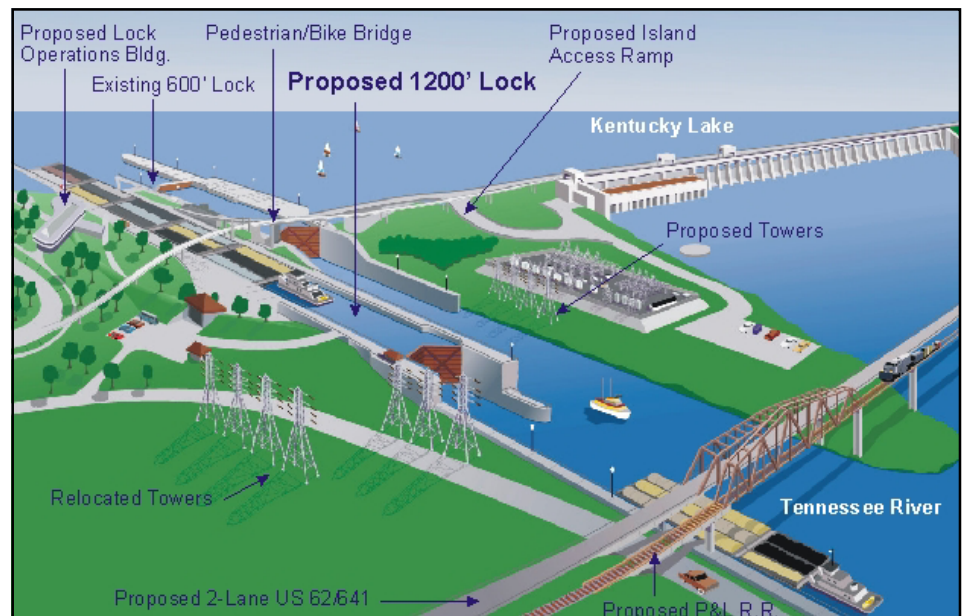
"We are in the process of designing a new wetlands," said Getty. "We are destroying about 7.5 acres of wetlands as a result of our project. We are creating 15 acres of new wetlands on a site near Benton, Ky., which used to be wetlands but were drained so now we are converting it back. We should start construction on it this summer and finish it this fall."

"We spent about \$19 million last year and plan to spend about \$26 million this year," said Getty. "About \$12 million of that is construction and the other 14 is on design efforts. For next year, our project capability is \$55 million."

Last year, progress was made in design and the first big construction contract was awarded, the West Bank Approaches toward the two big bridges. During fiscal year 2002, the Kentucky Lock Addition should progress towards the beginning of major construction, according to Getty.

"We had three goals for this year," said Getty. "One to complete this supplemental EIS and have it finalized this year, and we are on track to do that. Our second and third goals are to award two large construction contracts this year. The first one will be the bridge pier for both of our two

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Regulatory Office Moves to J. Percy Priest Lake

Story and Photos by Steven Foshee

After approximately twenty-six years in the Estes Kefauver Federal Building on 801 Broadway the Regulatory staff packed up and moved to a new office last month.

The renovated shop building #5 at J. Percy Priest, off Bell Road now houses the District's Regulatory Office. As with any move its location, location and location. The general public, federal agencies, state and local communities depend on the Regulatory staff to resolve issues such as wetland concerns, stream bank relocation and gas pipeline crossings. Not only does this staff serve the need for the regulatory concerns on Corps lakes but also extends to the TVA lakes. In an attempt to better serve the public and these federal, state and local entities a field location had been discussed over the past years. J. Percy Priest Lake is located minutes away from the airport and allows customers throughout the seven-state area of the District to get to the Regulatory office within minutes.



Debra Tuck implements ideas to reduce office stress by adding family photos and her own mini waterfall to her new office.

The Regulatory staff not only considered location but also office layout and design to assist the customer quickly. The new office was designed with a conference room, individual offices, kitchen, and a centrally located filing room. All

office equipment such as a fax and copy machine were located along the open hallway between the individual offices. Customer concerns as well as employee concerns were all discussed and resolved before the first box was packed.

Continued



Carl Olson talks about the design elements of the office. He was especially thankful for having all the office equipment located in one centralized location.



The new conference room at Regulatory's new office will assist customers in resolving regulatory issues in a timely manner.

Continued

Ron Gatlin, Chief of the Regulatory Branch, said, "The concept of moving out of the District Office was brought on by the need for more space in the Federal Building and to make it easier for our customer."

People

Each of us went through the processes of dealing with any change and determined the effects it would have on our work and home environment. For some it was farther from home but offered a more organized office and on one level, while for others it improved managing day care responsibilities.

"The most important factor is not the new office but it became a win-win situation for each employee in his or her own way and our customer," said Gatlin.

Carl Olson, project manager said, "I worked at J. Percy Priest earlier in my career and knew the working environment would be good for the regulatory team." We provided directions on our website to our new office located off Interstate 40E and the customer can get to us hassle free. After the customer



This is Richard Graham's new office at J. Percy Priest. Graham put together a temporary office from cardboard boxes before his new furniture arrived.

arrives at the new office he or she can park and within minutes begin to resolve their issues with the Corps in a timely manner. Nashville has outgrown the downtown area and our customers were

stressed out before they even got to the old Regulatory office. Olson added, "The new office saves time and government resources dealing with our customers." □



Photo by Bill Peoples

Civilian Employees Honored

Debra Tuck, daughter of the late Sue Thibault, former Women's Program Coordinator for the Nashville District, unveils Thibault's name on the Distinguished Civilian Employees Roster. Along with Thibault, two other retired District employees were honored as Distinguished Civilian Employees, Lacy Campbell, former chief of Contracting and Fuzz Walker, former chief of the Floating Plant Section. With the addition of these three names, the Distinguished Civilian Roster now includes 47 names. □

Chief o

*Story and Photos by
Bill Peoples*



Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, Nashville District commander, talks with Melissa Sager, Resource Management Office, and the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers.



Leveda Parton, contract specialist, Contracting Division, discusses the upcoming SAME Conference with Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, when he toured the District office on March 23.

On March 23, the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, made a quick visit to the Nashville District Office and held a Town Hall Meeting in the afternoon at the BellSouth Building. Flowers was in Nashville to speak to the Associated General Contractors of America 2001 Convention.

During his visit, the Chief spent about 45 minutes walking through the District Office and talking to team members. Along the way he also presented coins to eight selected individuals: Sandy Jorah, Doug Delong, Jay Neely, Carol Haynes, Daphne Jackson, Phyllis Kohl, Julie Reeves and Yvette Walker.

At the Town Hall, Flowers introduced the District to the new Vision, which emphasizes People, Processes and Communication. He also reiterated his challenge to “Just Do It” and to have a 30-second commercial prepared about what they do in the Corps.

“One thing that I want everyone in the Corps to do is be prepared to give a 30-second commercial about what you do in Corps,” said Flowers. “I’ve been calling people up and asking them to give me their 30 second commercial. So if I call you and say ‘This the Chief,’ don’t hang up.”

During one part of his presentation, Flowers talked about being situationally aware, knowing about your District and keeping current on what is going on in the District. He made his point by asking selected individuals questions about the history of the Nashville District. If they got the first question correct, he would ask another until they were stumped, which

of Engineers Visits Nashville

usually did not take but a second question. Once they missed the question, they had to go stand up front. After 13 people were standing up front, Flowers announced that the questions had only been a ruse to get these folks up front in order to present them with Chief's coins. Receiving coins were: Gary House, Curtis Malone, Janie Billingsley, Barney Davis, Tom Swor, Ray Hedrick, Don Getty, James Sowell, Mark Hallar, Freddie Bell, Andreas Patterson, Joe Shaw, and Nancy Manahan.

Flowers said that many of the coins being presented during the day to people were for work they done in improving processes or for excelling in doing their job.

During the presentation, Flowers asked Lt. Col. Pete Taylor the definition of synergy. Even though the DE gave a good

definition, Flowers, who knew Taylor when the DE was a Lieutenant, dropped him for push-ups anyway. A few minutes later, the Chief was doing push-ups after Cledus Reeves stumped him on a question.

Flowers ended his comments with a video that showed Corps people at work. To the surprise of many, some people in the audience saw their faces or faces of their team members in the video.

With a mixture of seriousness and humor, Flowers, during his first visit to the Nashville District, was able to present the new vision in practical ways by highlighting people in the District, District processes and communicating one-on-one. His last comment at the Town Hall Meeting was to go out, do a good job, and "have fun." □



Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, does pushups at the Town Hall meeting after Cledus Reeves stumped him on a question.



Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, talked to team members of the Nashville District during a Town Hall Meeting about the new Corps Vision.



John Hall (left), chief, Environmental Restoration Branch, talks with Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers.

LDP 2001 Participants Begin Year-Long Adventure

by Melissa Sager and Wayne Easterling

The Nashville District Leadership Development Program (LDP) is a yearlong, part-time program that develops and grows future leaders for the Corps of Engineers. LDP candidates participate in seminars, graduate-level classes, executive staff meetings, and team projects as they enhance their management and leadership abilities.

The LDP Class of 2001 held its kick off retreat in February, at Henry Horton State Park. The team had several goals. First and foremost was learning about themselves, each other, and the concepts of team building.

Martha Kelley, Mary Fink, Susan Gordon, and Richard Smith of Belmont University's Center for Professional Development are teaching the class. Major Rich Shelton and Jody Stanton, this year's program coordinators, participated in our class activities. The LDP class members are Steve Barker, Bill Bennett, Brad Bishop, Paul Bluhm, Doug DeLong, Tim Dunn, Wayne Easterling, Connie Flat, Tennesse Henderson, Andreas Patterson, Melissa Sager, and Jean Todd.

One major aspect of the LDP Program is adopting a team project to develop our team building and leadership skills.



Photo courtesy of the 2001 LDP Class

The 2001 Leadership Development Class enjoyed their Kickoff Retreat. They are (seated left to right) Doug DeLong, Tim Dunn, and Major Rich Shelton, program coordinator; (second row seated, left to right) Jean Todd, Connie Flatt, Bill Bennett, Tennesse Henderson, and Andreas Patterson; (third row, standing, left to right) Paul Bluhm, Melissa Sager, Wayne Easterling, Steve Barker, Brad Bishop, and Jody Stanton, program coordinator.

During the retreat, the team members proposed several ideas and then voted on which projects they would like to work. Historically LDP teams have only worked

on two projects. Several votes were close, however, and the group decided to adopt three projects. The selected projects are: New Employee Orientation (Steve Barker, Paul Bluhm, and Tennesse Henderson), Mission Essential Task List (METL) and Automated Training Management Plan (ATMP) (Doug DeLong, Connie Flat, Wayne Easterling, and Jean Todd), and Historical Preservation

of the Old Locks on the Cumberland River (Bill Bennett, Brad Bishop, Tim Dunn, Andreas Patterson, and Melissa Sager).

The team also elected to support two philanthropic activities. In March, the team will volunteer at a Corps project. In May they will assist Hands on Nashville Project.

People

In the true spirit of team building, Maj. Shelton encouraged a group to try their hands at skeet shooting. Since competition promotes team building, they separated into two teams. The "Young" People (39 and below) were pitted against the "Old" People (40 and above). Maj. Shelton instructed the novices on skeet shooting and firearm safety. In the great tradition of Florida, the points were counted and "recounted." The "Young" People barely defeated the "Old" People, 33-32. The

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See LDP



Wayne Easterling (far right), Planning Branch, takes a turn at skeet shooting as part of a team building exercise during the LDP Kickoff Retreat. Looking on are Doug DeLong (far left) and Bill Bennett (center).

Continued

Dateline: Earth Day 2001

Happy 31st Earth Day!

by Park Ranger Troy Hawks

Try to imagine you have traveled to another place where the sky is void of life and a blue/gray haze is so thick that even with your mask filtering each life-giving breath, it is still a struggle to breathe. The ever-present fumes of sulfur and toxic waste boiling forth from the land, rivers and streams nag at your throat and burn your eyes and nose. To make things worse, the rivers and streams

burn, sometimes shooting flames fifty feet into the air and smoke rises hundreds of feet into the sky blocking out the sun's rays, and a landscape mountainous with trash and debris is practically all that can be seen.

This is not some far off planet, or even another country. This described our air, our streams, and our lands in some parts of the United States some 30 years ago. The state of our future was being questioned by such people as the President, scientists, and even the Pope. In 1970, Presi-

dent Richard M. Nixon warned that by the year 2000 we (the United States) would not be able to drink the water, breathe the air, or venture into the outdoors if pollution continued unchecked.

Congressional leaders and citizens alike knew something had to be done, and quickly. On April 22, 1970, the realization of Senator Gaylord Nelson's dream, backed by then President Nixon, came true. That dream was called "Earth Day". Earth Day

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See Earth Day

Old Hickory Lake Hosts 5th Graders on Earth Day

by Fredrick Bell

On April 20th, Rangers welcomed sixty-five 5th grade students from Walton Ferry Elementary to the Old Hickory Lake Environmental Study Area to celebrate the 31st anniversary of

Earth Day.

The purpose of the event was to acknowledge the exploitation, pollution, destruction and neglect of the environment. The theme of the day was Conservation, "the planned management of a natural resource to ensure the future use

of the resource."

Rangers prepared activities such as, planting food plots, mulching, tree planting and water safety demonstrations. Rangers explained the environmental benefits of each activity, and allowed students to have hands on

experience. The students really enjoyed themselves, for some it was their first experience using a hoe, shovel and rake to plant corn, mulch shrubs and plant trees. It was the first time many of them put on a life jacket, tossed a ring buoy, or experienced the effects of hypothermia via the "Cold Hand Luke" demonstration.

The event was a success for the Ranger staff, students, teachers, and the future of the environment. □



Photo courtesy of Old Hickory Lake
Park Ranger Tommy Mason instructs students as they dig a hole for the Earth Day tree planting.

Earth Day

Continued From Page 11

was then, and is now, a day to ponder what was, what is, and what will become the environmental problems and triumphs of our nation and our world.

Earth Day 1970 was celebrated by 20 million people in small towns, large metropolitan areas, high schools, and college campuses across America. This was the beginning, our beginning, of a more serious and organized environmental movement. Since 1970 environmental legislation has produced the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Kentucky Wilderness bill, and other legislative passages too numerous to mention.

Earth Day 1990 saw 200 million people in 141 countries around the world participate. In addition to Earth Day, we now celebrate Earth Week and Earth Month. Today, with so many people working toward improving environmental conditions around the globe, we have the potential of protecting additional lands and waters, acts which will improve our lives and the lives of our children.

To do our part in kicking off Earth Day 2001, the Corps of Engineers Resource Manager's Office staff located in Somerset, Ky., has issued bird box plans, as well as information on butterfly and hummingbird gardens to local school students. They have also helped local schools plan outdoor environmental classrooms. They have presented environmental education and water safety school programs to more than 4,000 local students during the past 18 months, and have handed out 1,500 seedling trees around Lake Cumberland. During the next few weeks, Rangers have scheduled more Earth Day presentations to school age children. These programs will attempt to educate children on the history of Earth Day, and how to improve and enjoy our environment.

Rivers within the U.S. no longer burn with pollutants, life-threatening toxic smog has greatly decreased, and the bald eagle is no longer endangered. America still has a difficult road ahead with problems ranging from drinking water shortages, to trash and debris accumulation, to global warming, to disposal of nuclear waste, to over-population.

We have come a long way in a very



Photo by Bill Peoples

Volunteers Tim Dunn, Andreas Patterson and Dena Williams working the registration booth and giving support to the National Water Safety Congress during the 5th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit at Opryland.

Summit

Continued From Page 4

nautical knots, remote control boat maneuvering, vessel safety checks, and the Corps' Rapid Response Vehicle.

Another District honoree was Steve Foshee who received a Region Three water safety award aboard the General Jackson Showboat on April 9, and a Region Four award at the awards banquet on April 11. Foshee was singled out for developing and implementing a water safety campaign using college football head coaches Phil Fulmer, University of Tennessee; Mike Dubose, University of Alabama; and Hal Mumme, University of Kentucky.

short time, and we can all be proud of those gains. We should continue to do our part in protecting Mother Earth by recycling whenever possible, planting native plants, donating time to an environmentally friendly cause or organization, educating children on environmental issues, or by just being good stewards of the land.

Aldo Leopold once wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*: "Our grandfathers were less well-housed, well-fed, well-clothed than we are. The strivings by which they bettered their lot are also those which deprived us of passenger pigeons.

Toni Rushing, resource manager, Laurel Lake, received the National Water Safety Congress Presidential Award. The President of the NWSC gives this award to recognize a person or persons for outstanding contribution and service to the National Water Safety Congress. This is the second time Rushing has been recognized with this Award having also received it in 1998.

Also mentioned was recently retired District Safety Officer Emmett Forte for his work in lining up local supporters for the Summit, and the District Public Affairs Office for its work with the media and the design and printing of Summit brochures. □

Perhaps we now grieve because we are not sure in our hearts that we have gained by the exchange. The gadgets of industry bring us more comforts than the pigeons did, but do they add as much to the glory of the spring? For one species to mourn the death of another is a new thing under the sun...But we, who have lost our passenger pigeons, mourn the loss. Had the funeral been ours, the pigeons would hardly have mourned us. In this fact lies objective evidence of our superiority over the beasts. "

We can make a difference...we must make a difference. □

Lake Barkley is for the Birds

by Mark Klimaszewski
park ranger, Lake Barkley

Visitors to Lake Barkley during March left asking the question, "Is this place for the birds?" White Pelicans decided to make the tailwater area of Lake Barkley into a rest

stop on their journey north after a long winter on the gulf coast.

White Pelicans, the largest of the American pelican species, are not permanent residents of Lake Barkley. The pelicans call areas of the Northern Plains and Canada home. During autumn, they make the long trek to the Gulf Coast to

spend the winter months. Around early March, the pelicans begin their journey back home. This year, they chose to make Lake Barkley into a rest area for pelicans on their way back home.

The sight of these birds in western Kentucky during spring, while not unusual, provides visitors a chance to get

an up close and personal view of the birds' feeding habits. The pelicans use their large beak, with its nearly three-gallon water capacity to scoop up fish out of the water while they swim. One of North America's largest birds, they can tip the scales at almost 20 pounds and have a wingspan of up to nine feet.

As of the latter part of March, the pelicans were still visiting the lake. Bird watchers from across the region have been "flocking" to the tailwater area to catch a glimpse of a species once thought to be on the verge of extinction. □



Photo Courtesy of Steve Vantreese, Paducah Sun
Pelicans enjoy the tailwaters of Barkley Dam during their recent visit.

LDP

Continued From Page 10

losing team served the winning team lunch!

This team building exercise was such a great success they tried it again the next day. This time they were joined by some of the Belmont staff. The routine was the same, except this time the teams were divided between the North (born above the Mason Dixon Line) vs. the South (born below the Mason Dixon Line). The points were counted and the South thoroughly trounced the North 51 to 28! The losing team will be serving the winning team lunch at their next LDP meeting!

Other structured activities included dividing into teams and trying to recreate a haphazard creation out of toy construction sets while beset by possible spies and

saboteurs from other teams, planning their projects, and an evening of music.

During the final wrap up, they had a lessons-learned recap. Two noteworthy points came out. First, all agreed this LDP group's singing skills leave something to be desired. And second, Jody put it well when he said, "It's no fun to be old and from the North." All fun aside, it was a great team building and learning experience for all. Already they are looking forward to a great year. □

Photo by Maj. Rich Shelton
Right, Bill Bennett, safety officer, Nashville District, bagged a tom while turkey hunting at Cheatham Lake with Maj. Rich Shelton, deputy district engineer, and Larry Nash, Lake Barkley resource manager.



The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

... Laura Jane Paris, daughter of Corrine Paris, Administrative Assistant at Cordell Hull Lake, on her graduation from Gallatin High School with Honors in December 2000.

... Elaine Bustillos, who was recently permanently assigned in the Security Office in the Security Assistant position. Elaine had been temporarily in the position for a year.

... Shannon Bustillos, daughter of Elaine Bustillos, Security Office, has accepted a full-time position as Evening Program Coordinator for Sports and Recreation at the Siegel Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. She will be leaving Old Hickory to start her new position in mid-April;

... Susannah Bustillos, daughter of Elaine Bustillos, has accepted a full-time position in charge of advertising and marketing for Oakwood Cleaners in Hermitage, TN.

... Deanna Bustillos, daughter of Elaine Bustillos, will be graduating in June from the American Music and Drama Academy in New York City. She plans to stay in New York and to audition for jobs as a performer, either off-off-Broadway, off-Broadway, on-Broadway, commercials, or television, or any other opportunity that is "out there." She sings, acts, and dances.

... Jackson Carter, who is the son of Jimmy Carter the contract inspector at Dale Hollow Lake. Jackson recently competed in the Southeastern Karate Tournament held at the Gentry Center on the campus of Tennessee State University. Jackson came in first in fighting and also fourth in martial art forms.

Farewell to...

... Wendy Hansen Coward, park ranger at Old Hickory Lake, who will be leaving the Corps to join her husband in the Caribbean.

... Jewel Spivey, contract inspector at J. Percy Priest Resource, is leaving to take a position with the Nashville Repair Station. All the folks at J. Percy Priest wish Jewel a fond farewell and the best of luck on your

new job. We will sure miss your cooking!

Welcome to...

... Jon Summers, park ranger at Cordell Hull Lake. Summers comes to us from Beecher City, IL. Summers was a Co-Op student at Wappapello Lake in the St. Louis District, he graduated from Southern Illinois University with a B.S. in Forestry.

... Lucy Fears, budget technician in Environmental Restoration and Design; who relocated from the Naval Support Activity-MidSouth, Millington, Tenn.

... Chip Hall is a new student trainee biologist in the Project Planning Branch. Chip is a senior at University of Tennessee in Knoxville and will be working in the Environmental Section for the next year. He is a biologist attending University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Chip will be working with the District until December and then returning to finish his degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

... Cecil Pippin, contract inspector, and Ben Looney, park ranger, both from Lake Cumberland, who are back from furlough.

... Jon Summers, park ranger at Cordell Hull Lake. Summers comes to us from Beecher City, IL. Summers was a Co-Op student at Wappapello Lake in the St. Louis District, he graduated from Southern Illinois University with a B.S. in Forestry.

... Two new Park Rangers have come on board: Mark Klimaszewski at Lake Barkley, and Amy Kazda at Old Hickory.

... Eight new trainees participating in the lock operator training program this year: Donald Dean, Dennis Wiley, Carl Scott, Steven Stoneburner, Terry Forshee, Pat Henson, Josh Lowery, and Brian Brewer.

Wedding Bells to...

... Melodey Lawson, daughter of Kenny Lawson, electronics engineer, Electronics Service Unit, who married Thomas Rutherford on Saturday, March 24th. The couple will reside in Hendersonville, Tenn.

... Amanda Davis, daughter of Donna Davis, Real Estate Division, who was married to Jamie McC Carson, Feb. 17, in

Waverly, Tenn.

Baby Brigade to...

... Bert and Jamie Merritt on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Skye, on January 30. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Bert is a Civil Engineering Technician at Cordell Hull Lake.

... David Bethurum and his family. While he is recuperating from surgery, David will be enjoying the company of his new granddaughter, Giovanna Sinclair Belsito, who made her debut on Monday, February 19th, weighing 6 pounds and 14 ounces. Her proud parents are Antonio and Jenny Belsito!

... Jim Jackson, senior electrician, Laurel Power Plant, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud grandparents of Nathaniel Jackson Coffey born March 6, weighing 8 pounds, and 10 ounces.

... Edwin (Pete) Danielson, civil engineering technician in the Soils Design and Dam Safety Section, Geotechnical Branch, on becoming a grandfather.

Sympathy to...

... Bobby R. Powell, lock operator at Pickwick Lock, had his mother-in-law, Mattie L. Bennett pass away on Jan. 23.

... Kenny Claywell, ranger trainee, Old Hickory and his father Phil, on the loss of his mother and Phil's wife, Brenda Claywell, who passed away on Feb. 12.

... the family of James "JC" Cannon who passed away on March 14. JC was the district warehouseman for the Logistics Management Office until last year when he retired on a medical disability.

... B. J. Fagan, chief, Budget Section, who recently experienced the loss of George Allwein, her partner of 16 years. George, who was Chief of Budget at the Memphis District, recently became ill while in Nashville and died on Tuesday, April 10.

... Bobby Enlow, Lock operator at Pickwick Lock, had his father-in-law, Roscoe Dick pass away recently.

... Robert C. Byington, retired Landscape Architect, and his wife, Betty, on the death of their son, Robert Dorr, age 35,

Continued

Continued

who died on March 19 of pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, Jana, and three children: Haley, 6; Hannah, 4; and Micah, 17 months.

Thank you from ...

... Hobart Parish, retiree. "Thanks to the PAO Office and the District Engineer for the support given to the Retirees in their Luncheon at the Piccadilly, Madison, Tn also to the Communication People for their help. We would like to thank those that came for the first time Frank Massa, Peggy Owen, Wayne Abernathy, Janie Carrol, Dwight Smith, and any others we may have missed. Sorry I missed the March Luncheon but hope to see everyone at our October meeting, 3rd Wednesday in October." □

Thoughts from the Trail Continued From Page 3

concerns. In all three cases, I spoke after the fact with the on-site safety officer and commended them for their actions. Remember, we want to take every reasonable step to protect our employees and contractors. A second thought that comes to mind is that, while we've had a good year from a safety perspective, Murphy is out there. A year ago, I couldn't tell stories about barge sinkings at Wilson Lock or a drill rig toppling into the tail water at Chickamagua. Fortunately, in both of these instances nobody was hurt. Still, these incidents do show that it only takes a second of inattentiveness for an accident to happen. Remember, look at everything you do with a critical eye towards safety.

Let me conclude this month's edition by paraphrasing part of what the Chief told us during the town hall. Briefly, his message was that what we do and how well we do it is appreciated by the American public and by senior leadership in the Army and Corps of Engineers. The Corps has answered the nation's call for more than 225 years with excellence and it will continue to do so. Take pride in this history and, more importantly, in what you do on a daily basis. Bottom line, have fun and enjoy your job! Until next month, I know that you'll continue to "lead the way, Nashville!" □

Calendar

April

18	"Stars and Stripes " paper for the U.S. Armed Forces began, 1942
20	U.S. Seventh Army captures Nuremburg, Germany, 1944
22	First Spanish-American War action; USS Nashville takes enemy ship, 1898
25	U.S. and Soviet forces meet at Torau, Germany on the Elbe River, 1945
28	Professional Secretaries Day

May

1	Child Day, (U.S.)
5	Jesse Owens of the U.S., sets the long jump record at 26'8", 1935
8	U.S. Post Office established, 1794
13	Mother's Day, give her a call
19	Armed Forces Day

Information for the next calendar must be received in the Public Affairs Office by the 15th. Please send email to William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil. Information on events and activities of interest to all District employees is requested from the staff and the field.

Kentucky Lock Addition Continued From Page 4

large bridges crossing the Tennessee River, the highway bridge, and the railroad bridge. We hope to advertise that contract in May. The other big contract is the actual start of the lock construction itself, the upstream cofferdam and upstream lock excavation and we hope to advertise it and award it this summer. This would be the start on the construction of the lock itself."

Constructions on parts of the project are now underway. The tower relocations

have been underway since 1998 and other construction is about to begin.

"If one visited, say, this summer, you'd see construction of the towers continuing, as well as the West Bank Approaches work continuing. Those are our two big activities now. In the late summer, some activity may begin on the bridge piers themselves, which will mainly be a marine based job, working off barges. I hope that late in the fall, work will begin on the upstream cofferdam. So we have a lot of construction activity about to begin in the next six months." □

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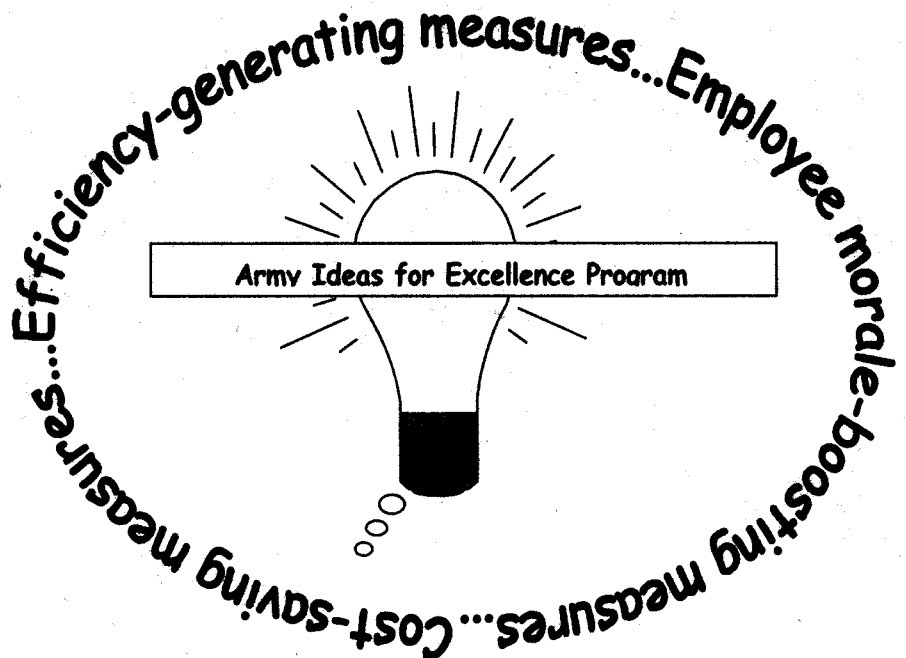
Congratulations to Nashville's Most Recent AIEP Suggestors!

○ Mr. Michael Zoccola (EC-R) for his idea to institute an Automated External Defibrillator in the District. This idea could easily save lives in the future.

○ Mr. Johnnie Hayes and Mr. Cledus Reeves (OP-OLD/L). Their suggestion for a Waste Oil Removal System will help reduce polluting the environment.

○ Mr. Larry Neal's (OP-WB/L) idea of an Oil Filtering System will significantly increase the time intervals between portable unit filtering and an overall reduction of lock maintenance.

○ Mr. Leonard Rankins (OP-WOL/P) suggested that an Egress to the Roof of the Wolf Creek Power Plant Generator be installed. By doing so, safety hazards can be eliminated.



Thanks to all the suggestors for taking the time to think of new ways to make the Corps of Engineers a better place to work. □